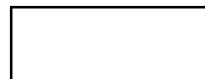


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PHOTOGRAPHIC INTERPRETATION MEMORANDUM



INDIAN BORDER DEFENSES
AKSAI CHIN AND
NILANG-BARA HOTI AREAS
INDIA-CHINA FRONTIER



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SEPTEMBER 1969
COPY 120
6 PAGES



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Declass Review by NIMA/DOD

GROUP 1: EXCLUDED FROM
AUTOMATIC DOWNGRADING
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INDIAN BORDER DEFENSES, AKSAI CHIN AND NILANG-BARA
HOTI AREAS, INDIA-CHINA FRONTIER

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Analysis of photography [] reveals 22 Indian military facilities in eastern Jammu and Kashmir, including 13 border posts/forward camps and nine rear support bases. The facilities are dispersed along a northwest-southeast line paralleling and west of the international boundary claimed by Communist China. The area is served by a major airfield and four auxiliary landing strips, and most of the facilities are connected by motorable roads.

Several Chinese military camps and outposts are located within an approximately 5,000-square-mile area of eastern Jammu and Kashmir known as "Aksai Chin." According to the international boundary claimed by India, these forces are illegally occupying a portion of Jammu and Kashmir.

Eight additional Indian military facilities and a possible radar site are located in the northern frontier area between Jammu and Kashmir and Nepal. The Indian and Chinese boundary claims in this area closely agree and only one Chinese facility has been identified within the territory claimed by India.

The Indian facilities in the two border areas appear defensive in nature and designed to prevent further encroachment by Communist China. There is no photographic evidence of a Chinese military buildup nor any other indication of a change in the status quo.

This report provides photographic documentation of the disposition of Indian forces in eastern Jammu and Kashmir and along the northern India-China border (Figure 1).

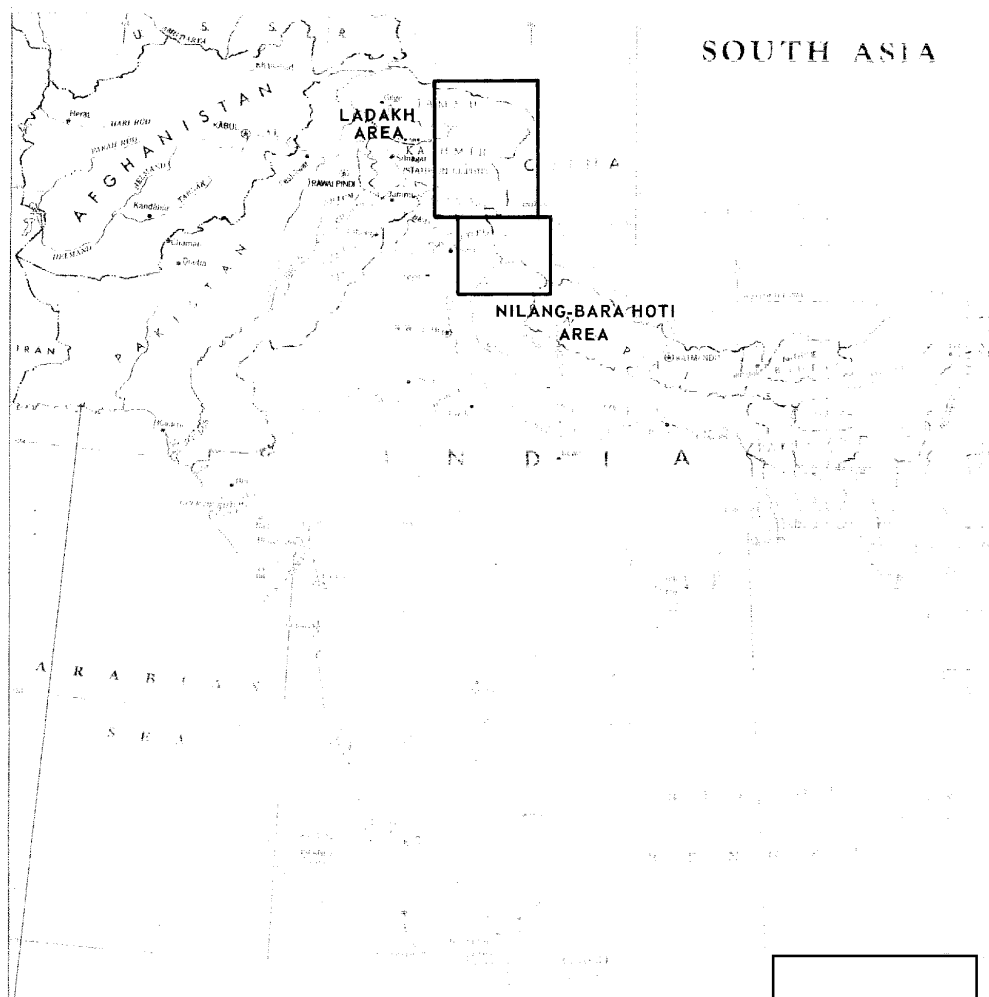


FIGURE 1. GENERAL LOCATION MAP, SOUTH ASIA

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Ladakh Area, Eastern Jammu and Kashmir

Ladakh is the eastern portion of Indian-controlled Jammu and Kashmir and lies at the southeastern fringe of the Karakoram mountain range. It is bordered on the north and the east by China's Sinkiang Province and Tibet.

There is a major border disagreement between China and India in this area, with China claiming the Aksai Chin region (Figure 2). China reportedly began construction of a major road through Aksai Chin [] to connect Sinkiang Province with Tibet, and began occupying the area []. Both the road network and the Chinese facilities have been photographically confirmed.

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[] revealed that Indian forces have been dispersed to the west of the Karakoram mountains and generally parallel the boundary claimed by the Chinese for a distance of approximately 130 nautical miles (nm). The Indian facilities include 22 military camps and outposts, a major airfield, four small landing strips, and two drop zones. The facilities consist of approximately 100 barracks, 50 ammunition storage buildings, 500 tents, 800 small support buildings or tents, 25 administration buildings, five probable helicopter pads, at least 175 probable vehicles, and 85 miscellaneous associated buildings.

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The major military complex in the Ladakh area is centered around Leh Airfield []. This complex is the main support facility for the smaller camps and outposts along the border and contains three major barracks areas, a general supply area, and two large ammunition storage areas (Figure 3).

Most of the camps and outposts are connected by roads, although old caravan trails still serve some of more remote regions. One of the two primary roads extends from a point approximately 4 nm from the China border in the Indus River Valley (32-41N 079-27E) northwest along the river, through the Leh Complex, to within 25 nm of the India-Pakistan cease-fire line (34-17N 076-42E). The other primary road extends southwest from the first, approximately 25 nm southeast of Leh (33-49N 077-49E), and although not photographically confirmed for its entire length, is probably the major artery into southern Jammu and Kashmir.

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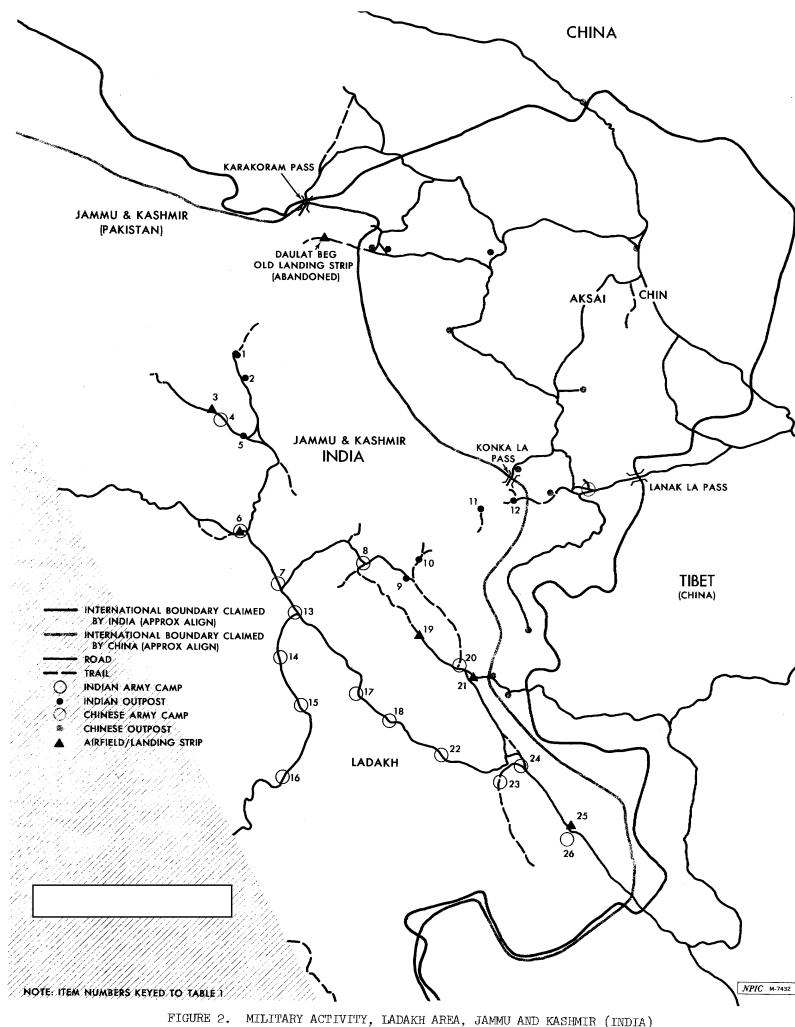
No.	Name	Coordinates	BE No.	Description
1.	Sasoma Military Outpost	34°53'28"N 077°29'10"E	None	11 bldgs/tents
2.	Punamik Military Outpost	34°47'25"N 077°32'25"E	None	8 bldgs
3.	Thoise Airfield	34°39'05"N 077°23'20"E		7090' x 155' graded earth runway, serviceable. No facilities
4.	Hundar Military Camp	34°36'40"N 077°26'55"E	None	16 bks and 13 tents
5.	Deshkyk Military Outpost	34°32'40"N 077°33'50"E	None	1 bks and 14 bldgs/tents
6.	Leh Military Complex	34°08'18"N 077°31'40"E		10450' x 150' concrete and asphalt runway, serviceable, 23 admin bldgs, 39 bks, 405 associated bldgs, 274 tents, 52 ammo stor bldgs, 175 vehicles (Figure 3)
7.	Koru Military Camps	33°54'30"N 077°45'10"E	None	20 bks, 180 tents, 173 bldgs, 50 bldgs/tents, motor pool, and 98 vehicles
8.	Tangtse Military Complex	34°02'30"N 078°10'10"E	None	400 bldgs/tents, 2 open stor areas, 3 poss helicopter pads, 73 vehicles, 25 poss PA/trailers
9.	Chushul Military Encampment	33°58'05"N 078°24'05"E	None	Road-served gun emplacement
10.	Phobrang Military Outpost	34°03'20"N 078°26'40"E	None	4 bks and 4 tents
11.	Chang Chenmo River Military Area	34°15'27"N 078°42'57"E	None	12 bldgs/tents, drop zone
12.	Chang Chenmo Outpost	34°18'05"N 078°56'40"E	None	9 bldgs/tents, drop zone
13.	Peshi Military Camp	33°49'50"N 077°49'30"E	None	45 bldgs/tents
14.	Dongjes Chan Military Camp	33°37'05"N 077°46'20"E	None	25 bldgs, 27 prob tents
15.	Pongunagu Military Camp	33°26'05"N 077°51'05"E	None	25 bldgs, 27 prob tents
16.	Khanlagyal Military Camp	33°07'50"N 077°47'45"E	None	60 bldgs/tents
17.	Kiari Military Camp	33°28'45"N 078°08'10"E	None	190 bldgs/tents, 1 prob helicopter pad, 10 poss vehicles
18.	Chumatang	33°21'50"N 078°18'35"E	None	50 bldgs, 20 tents, 1 helicopter pad
19.	Chushul Landing Strip	33°44'00"N 078°28'00"E	None	4000' x 140' runway, unserviceable. No facilities
20.	Chushul Military	33°36'00"N 078°39'00"E	None	25 bks, 1 admin, 18 stor bldgs
21.	Chushul Airfield	33°33'05"N 078°43'25"E	None	5500' x 100' runway, serviceable, surface material unknown. Facilities are dismantled
22.	Nyoma Military Camp	33°12'05"N 078°26'45"E	None	16 bldgs/tents
23.	Chushul Military Camp South	33°08'50"N 078°51'00"E	None	27 bldgs, 1 vehicle
24.	Chushul Military Installation	33°14'40"N 078°57'05"E	None	12 bldgs, 1 vehicle
25.	Fukehe Airfield	32°56'15"N 079°13'00"E		10,000' x 180' graded earth runway, serviceable, 3 poss ammo stor, 6 bldgs
26.	Koyul Military Barracks	32°54'40"N 079°12'08"E	None	28 bldgs

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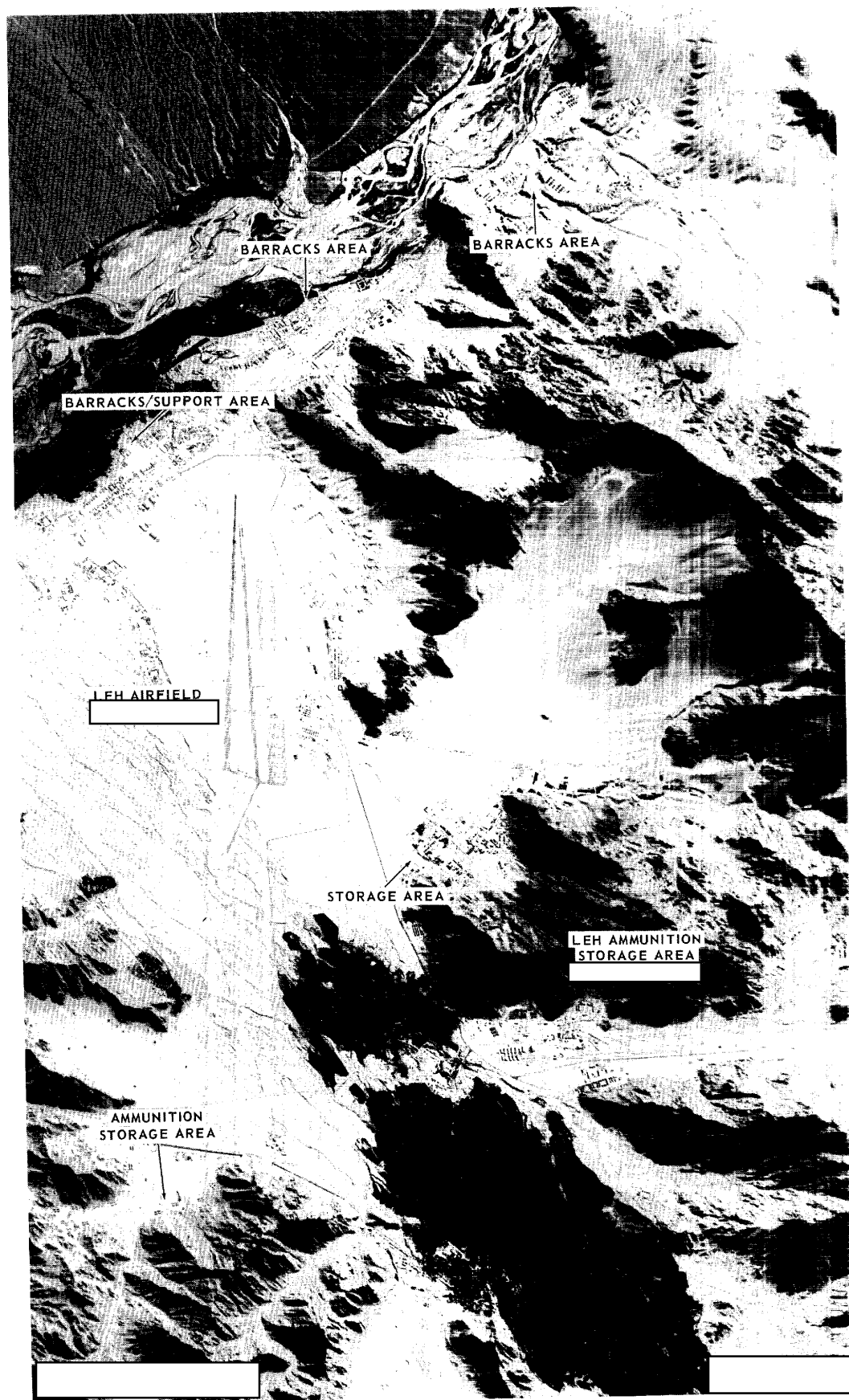
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FIGURE 3. LEH MILITARY COMPLEX, LADAKH AREA, JAMMU AND KASHMIR (INDIA)

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Nilang-Bara Hoti Area, Northern India/ China Border

The Nilang-Bara Hoti border area is located along India's northern frontier between Jammu and Kashmir and Nepal. Although India and China have not agreed on an exact demarcation, the boundaries claimed by both countries generally follow the crestline of the Himalaya mountain range (Figure 4).

[redacted] revealed seven military complexes, a small border outpost (Figure 5), and a possible radar site dispersed in the vicinity of the border. The facilities contain approximately 75 barracks, 500 support buildings, 750 buildings/tents, three probable helicopter pads, and at least 28 probable vehicles.

The largest complex in the area is the Joshimath Brigade Headquarters, [redacted] (Figure 6), located 30 nm southwest of the border and opposite three main mountain passes from China. It is joined to four of the other military complexes by an interconnecting road network which probable originates in Dehra Dun, headquarters of the 14th Infantry Division.

NPIC Project [redacted]

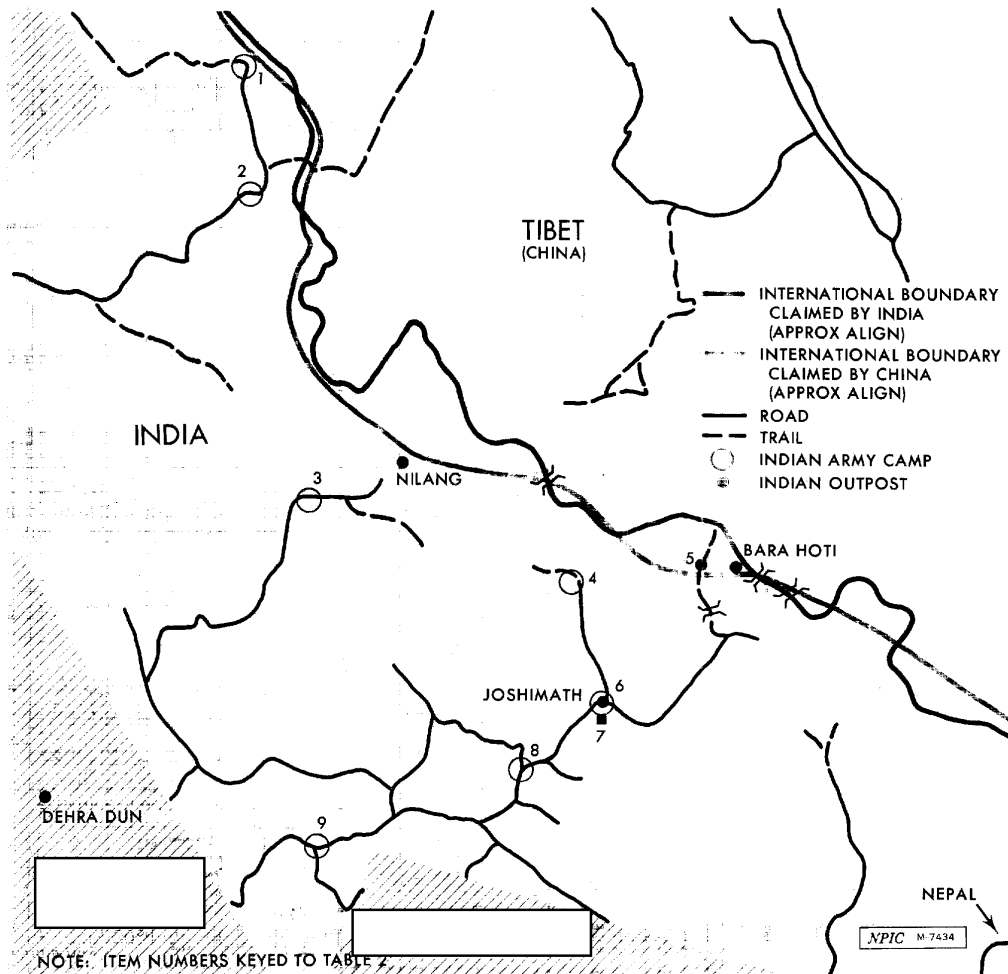


FIGURE 4. MILITARY ACTIVITY, NILANG-BARA HOTI BORDER AREA, INDIA/TIBET BORDER

No.	Name	Coordinates	BE NO.	Description
1.	Sirjagma Military Areas	320300N 0783650E	None	28 bks, 67 bldgs, and a poss helicopter pad
2.	Giabong Military Camp	314500N 0783300E	None	315 bldgs/tents
3.	Harsil Military Camp	310215N 0784530E	None	105 bldgs/tents
4.	Badrinath Military Camp	304430N 0792950E	None	80 bldgs/tents, poss helicopter pad, and 10 prob vehicles.
5.	Langpiar Border Outpost	305215N 0795005E	None	8 bldgs (Figure 5)
6.	Joshimath Brigade Hqs	303400N 0793400E	[redacted]	400 bldgs, poss helicopter pad, and 18 vehicles (Figure 6)
7.	Joshimath Possible Radar Site	303130N 0793330E	None	4 unidentified structures/objects
8.	Gopeshwar Military Area	302415N 0791920E	None	46 bks, 13 bldgs and 130 bldgs/tents
9.	Dang Military Area	301315N 0784615E	None	119 bldgs/tents

Table 2. Installations in the Nilang-Bara Hoti Border Area

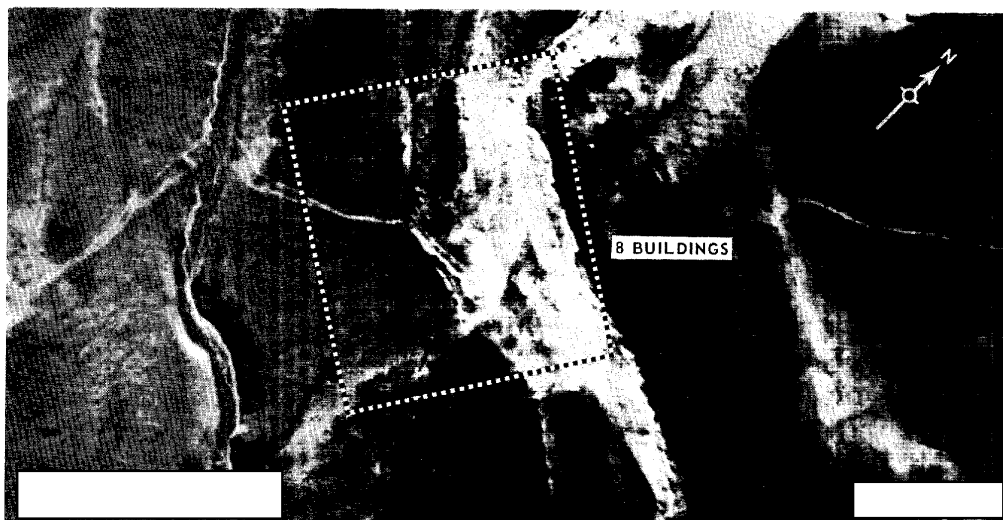
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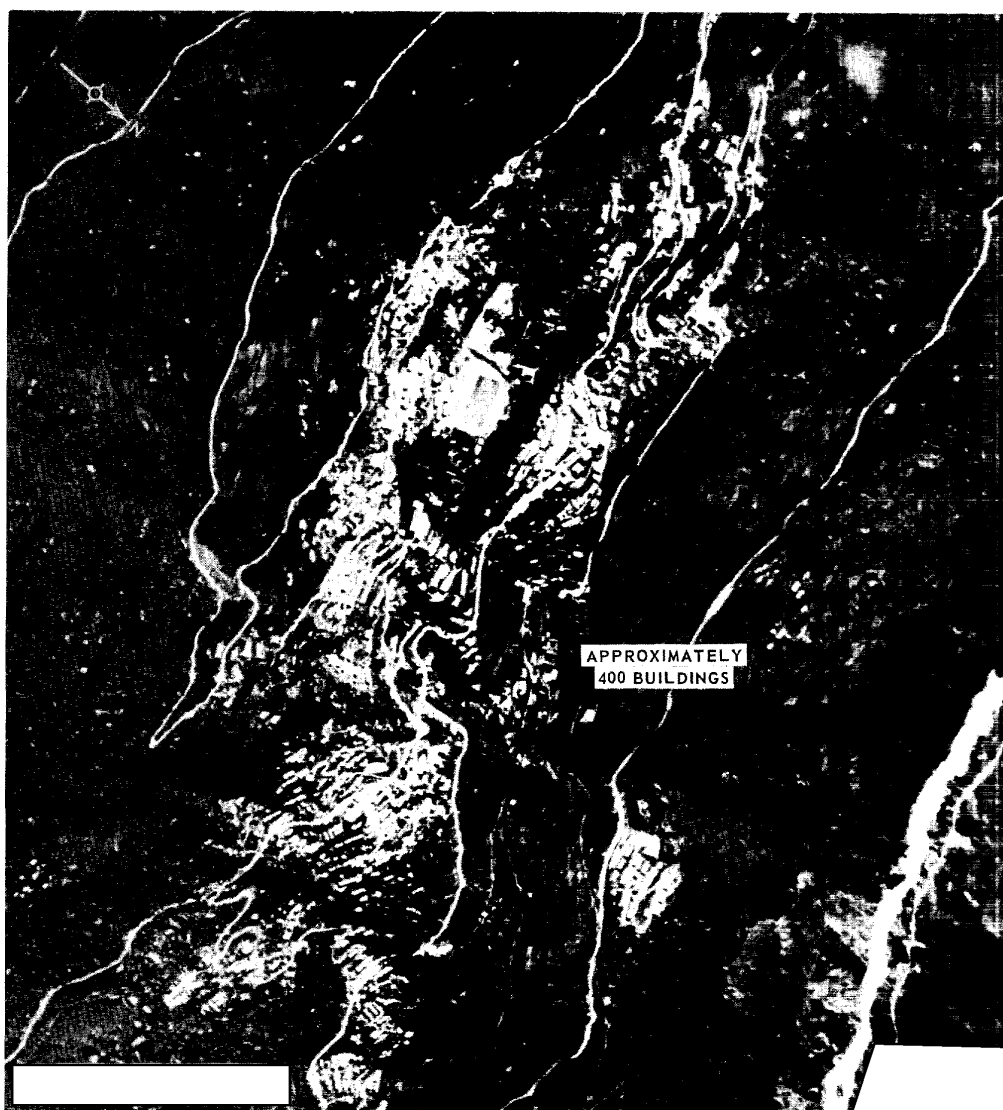
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FIGURE 5. LANGPIAR BORDER OUTPOST, INDIA/TIBET BORDER AREA



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FIGURE 6. JOSHIMATH BRIGADE HEADQUARTERS [REDACTED] INDIA/TIBET BORDER AREA

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